



Branching Out

August 14, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

TREE meetings:

September 17 Meeting: Northumberland County Library in Heathsville from 11 to 2pm Guest speaker will be Dr. Jeff Kirwin, author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*.

The Winter meeting will be at Friends of the Rappahannock. Details coming soon!

Start thinking of nominations for officers. It is certainly OK to nominate yourself! Next spring I will have been president for 2 years, and I think it is fair to give some else a chance

Other Events:

You'll discover how to build naturally appearing and functioning wetlands for only \$900 that could last for 900-years by attending the **Sweet Briar College Isolated Wetlands Conference and Vernal Pond Building Workshop** in Amherst, Virginia from September 11-13, 2009. For more information and registration forms contact Tom.Biebighauser@fs.fed.us

Project Learning Tree Workshop

October 23rd, 9am-4pm, Norfolk Botanical Garden

www.cnr.vt.edu/plt/

Bring the forest into the classroom with Project Learning Tree activities! With topics ranging from forests, wildlife, and water, to community planning, waste- management and energy, PLT is one of the most widely used environmental education programs in the United States and abroad. PLT strengthens their critical thinking, team building, and problem solving skills. The 402-page PLT Activity Guide contains 96 hands-on activities for PreK-8, and is correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning. The workshop is free; registration required by October 2nd to Holly Carson at holly.carson@norfolk.gov or 441-1347

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

[*How to Build a Successful Fundraising Team*](#)

Baseball has been used for over a century as a metaphor for many of life's challenges. In this nine-part series, GrantStation CEO Cindy Adams uses the baseball metaphor to help organizations learn how to better manage community volunteers in order to expand and strengthen their fundraising capabilities. This series focuses on transforming a dedicated group of volunteers into a viable fundraising team. Click on the link provided above to read the sixth article, "Mid-Season Slump: Keeping up the Momentum."

Tools with a Cost:

GrantStation Webinars Scheduled for August

Unless otherwise noted, all webinars are led by Cynthia M. Adams, CEO of GrantStation, and scheduled to begin at 2 PM EDT. The registration fee for webinars is \$89 per person.

[Grant Writing: Getting Started](#)

If you are new to grant writing this 90-minute session will help you identify the information you need to collect and the files you need to establish to begin developing compelling grant proposals.

Cynthia M. Adams has been teaching grant writing workshops for over 20 years, and will answer all of your questions about how to get started. This workshop is full of "how tos" and examples for beginning grant writers. Ms. Adams uses the GrantStation website as her training tool so you will also get an inside look at GrantStation and the numerous resources offered. The webinar will be held Monday, August 10, 2009. Visit the link listed above to register.

[Identifying the Right Grantmaker](#)

Identifying the right grantmaker for any program or project is a straightforward, step-by-step process that can greatly increase the possibility of securing grant funding. Using GrantStation as a research tool, Cynthia Adams will walk you through an efficient and effective grant research process from start to finish. During the webinar, Ms. Adams will take projects from participants in order to demonstrate the best approach for finding the appropriate grantmaker. This webinar will be offered on Tuesday, August 25, 2009. Visit the website listed above to register.

[The Road Less Traveled: The Pathway to the Big Gift](#)

Individual giving accounts for approximately 85% of all charitable contributions in the United States. How can your nonprofit follow the path that will lead to landing the big gifts? Major gifts are defined differently by each organization, but every organization needs to know the 95/5 Rule and how to implement it to assure a diverse, stable funding stream. In this webinar, Linda Lysakowski will talk about ways to identify, cultivate, and solicit major donors. The role of the board, staff and volunteers in this process will also be discussed. The webinar will be held Thursday, August 27, 2009. Visit the link listed above to register.

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

New website to register your volunteer projects

President Obama has recently unveiled an initiative calling on all Americans to help in our nation's recovery by volunteering in their communities this summer. The President's call to summer service launches United We Serve, a sustained effort to expand the size and impact of volunteer efforts in addressing tough challenges facing the nation.

To make it easy for Americans to get involved, the President is urging Americans to visit Serve.gov. Visitors to Serve.gov can type in their zip code to find local volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers by [registering their organization's projects](#), or get [ideas for creating their own projects](#) with friends, families, and neighbors. Plan a project, join a project and register your project at www.serve.gov.

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact